

SUMMARY OF THE APPROACH TO IMPACT ANALYSIS WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

TIME/LOCATION OF THE WORKSHOP: The Workshop was held on Tuesday, April 29, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the Sacramento Convention Center, Room 203.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP: The purpose of the Workshop was twofold: 1.) To explain to the public the process by which impacts to each resource category would be analyzed. 2.) To receive input from the public on the adequacy of the proposed impact analysis methods and process.

WORKSHOP FORMAT: The Workshop was lead by Rick Brietenbach who acted as moderator. Eugenia Laychak facilitated the response to comments from the audience. Each Impact Analysis Team Leader made a presentation to the audience describing the approaches that are proposed, methods that are being considered, and a demonstration of these methods (operational, physical). Information was presented on: hydrology & water management, vegetation & wildlife, fisheries & aquatic ecosystem, levee system integrity, economics, and water quality.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS: Seventy-two (72) individuals attended the Workshop, excluding CALFED staff. Throughout the day there was constant interaction between the audience, the presenters, and CALFED staff. The presentations by the Team Leaders were well received by the audience. There were about 75 questions posed to the staff. The stated purpose of the Workshop were met; CALFED staff presented its proposed approach to impact analysis, and the audience responded with questions and comments. .

AUDIENCE ISSUES: The following is a composite of questions/comments provided by the audience presented by resource category. These composite questions are representative of the questions posed at the workshop.

General

- Concern was expressed over the level of detail to be presented in impact analysis. In particular, the heavy reliance on existing data/information.
- Several questions were asked related to the linkage of impacts between resource categories such as the links between water quality, levee integrity, and fish and wildlife issues.

Hydrology

- Several questions dealt with the issue of groundwater, especially in the north

Sacramento Valley east of the Sacramento River. The major concern seems to revolve around whether CALFED has considered its impact on groundwater in great enough detail.

- The short time frame to accomplish the analysis caused some to question whether or not enough modeling would be done to draw appropriate conclusions about impacts. Existing data may not accurately address concerns and extrapolation may be misleading.
- Will CALFED address water impacts by watershed?

Fish and Wildlife

- The impact analysis should assess benefits to species with the entire study area, including those upstream of the delta as well as those in the legal delta..
- The impact analysis should use a habitat based evaluation procedure.
- How would the impact analysis be applied? Would it apply to each program action or to a total alternative?

Levee System

- Most questions for this resource category related to how levees would be constructed. What kind of material would be used and where would it come from.
- Questions were asked relating to linkages between levee integrity, storage, and existing levee improvement programs.
- Would waterside and landside impacts of imported fill for levees be assessed?

Economics/Land Use

- Most questions related to economic impacts to specific interest areas such as water allocation, agriculture, power generation, and fisheries. It was suggested that models be used to supplement existing information.
- Most questions involved the process by which the impact analysis would be conducted. Where would the information be obtained? Is the analysis regional? Are direct and indirect impacts should be assessed?

Water Quality

- Would the impacts of water transfers on local water quality be assessed?

WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

1. The 75 questions and comments made by the audience were captured on a flip chart or on 3" x 5" file cards. Those questions/comments were then transferred to computer file and distributed to each Impact Analysis Team Leader for an appropriate response. Each question/comment will be addressed and incorporated into the impact analysis to the extent possible..

2. A follow-on workshop is planned for August. This workshop will focus on the in progress results of impact analysis completed to that point. Once again, the audience will be asked to consider the adequacy of these interim results, level of detail and appropriateness of the impact analysis methods.